

Some moths in north Pembrokeshire, Wales, during 2003

In 2002, several of us living in north Pembrokeshire (VC 45) renewed our interest in Lepidoptera, something we had all enjoyed during our youth. Early in 2003, we decided to record on a more formal basis as a group and, for convenience, the Pembrokeshire Lepidoptera Recorder gave us our name North Pembrokeshire Moth Group (NPMG). This is a brief summary of our group and individual activities throughout the season which we hope will be of interest to other lepidopterists. When viewing our records, it should be borne in mind that Pembrokeshire has been little worked, especially in the rural north. Regular NPMG trapping between April and November, using a generator to power 4 × MV traps and a vertical white sheet, produced a number of useful records (CR = County record). Nationally Notable category B species are indicated by the abbreviation “Nb”.

Tycanol NNR SN094376. 17.04.2003.

<i>Furcula bicuspis</i> (Borkh.)	Alder Kitten	4th CR. Early record
<i>Drymonia ruficornis</i> (Hufn.)	Lunar Marbled Brown	Large numbers

Pengelli NNR SN124394. 28.06.2003

<i>Archips xylosteana</i> (L.)		2nd CR
<i>Perinephela lancealis</i> ([D. & S])		5th CR

Cilgwyn SN076367. 03.07.2003

<i>Archips xylosteana</i> (L.)		3rd CR
<i>Phlyctaenia coronata</i> (Hufn.)		4th CR
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb
<i>Bena bicolorana</i> (Fuessly)	Scarce Silver-lines	3rd CR

Riverslea SN058399. 07.07.2003

<i>Ditula angustiorana</i> (Haw.)		4th CR
<i>Catoptria pinella</i> (L.)		8th CR
<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i> (Hb.)		2nd CR
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb

Brynberian SN113353. 25.07.2003

<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb
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Ty Rhos SN085376. 09.08.2003

<i>Acleris hastiana</i> (L.)		6th CR
<i>Cydia splendana</i> (Hb.)		8th CR
<i>Pandemis corylana</i>		6th CR
<i>Nymphula stagnata</i> (Donovan)	Beautiful China-mark	8th CR
<i>Furcula bicuspis</i> (Borkh.)	Alder Kitten	10th CR. Late record
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb
<i>Watsonalla cultraria</i> (Fabr.)	Barred Hook-tip	4th CR

Sychbant, Cwm Gwaun SN045350. 23.08.2003

<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb
<i>Eilema caniola</i> (Hb.)	Hoary Footman	Nb
<i>Stilbia anomala</i> (Haw.)	Anomalous	

Minwear Woods SN054138. 06.09.2003

<i>Ypsolopha parenthesesella</i> (L.)		4th CR
<i>Pandemis cinnamomeana</i> (Treitschke)	(Male with white head)	4th CR. Late record
<i>Trichiura crataegi</i> (L.)	Pale Eggar	7th CR

Regular trapping by each individual on their own land is now reviewed.

Werngwyddel (O. S. grid reference SN 091392)

Liz and Philip Rapley's land lies along the bank of Afon Nyfer with an acre of informal and wild garden and an additional acre of unimproved hay meadow. On the opposite bank of the river is Llywngoras, a mature deciduous wood dominated by oak. They recorded almost 300 species during 2003 and those of particular interest are listed below.

<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i> (L.)		3rd CR, 5.07
<i>Pandemis corylana</i> (Fabr.)		5th CR, 4.07
<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i> (L.)		4th CR, 5.08
<i>Acleris comariana</i> (L. & Z.)		6/7th CR, 7.08;13.09
<i>Acleris literana</i> (L.)		3rd CR, 13.04
<i>Acentria ephemerella</i> ([D. & S])	Water Veneer	3rd CR, 8.08
<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i> (Hb.)		3rd CR, 6.11
<i>Catoptria pinella</i> (L.)		22.,07;16.08;22.08
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i> (Rossi)		2/3rd CR, 22.06;17.09
<i>Watsonalia cultraria</i> (Fabr.)	Barred Hook-tip	3rd CR, 5.08
<i>Xanthorhoe biriviata</i> (Borkh.)	Balsam Carpet	17.07;5.08;8.08
<i>Lampropteryx otregiata</i> (Metc.)	Devon Carpet	Nb, 27.05(2);8.08
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i>	Cloaked Carpet	Nb, 18.06
<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i> ([D. & S.])	Waved Carpet	Nb, 30.06;4.07
<i>Furcula bicupsis</i> (Borkh.)	Alder Kitten	6.05 - 2.06 (5)
<i>Lacanobia contigua</i> ([D. & S.])	Beautiful Brocade	9th CR, 21.06
<i>Lacanobia w-latinum</i> (Hufn.)	Light Brocade	5th CR, 31.05
<i>Xylena vetusta</i> (Hb.)	Red Swordgrass	7th CR, 20.04
<i>Mormo maura</i> (L.)	Old Lady	8/16th CR, 15.07 - 16.08 (9)
<i>Bena bicolorana</i> (Fuess.)	Scarce Silver-lines	4/5th CR, 10.07;4.08
<i>Pseudoips prasinana britannica</i> (Warr.)	Green Silver-lines	5/6th CR, 28.05;15.06
<i>Deltote uncula</i> (Cl.)	Silver Hook	13.07

Pencastell (O. S. grid reference SN 110460)

Peter Byles' house, together with some 50 acres of grassland, sits immediately above the cliffs at Ceibwr. He is probably the only lepidopterist in Wales to have his own colony of Black-banded! Strong winds often interfered with his trapping activities but he nevertheless recorded 140 species in 2003, including the following:

<i>Agapeta zoegana</i> (L.)		20.07 - 16.08 (10)
<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i> (Goeze)	Mullein Wave	26.08 - 4.09 (5)
<i>Eupithecia venosata</i> (Fabr.)	Netted Pug	13.05
<i>Deilphila porcellus</i> (L.)	Small Elephant Hawk	2.06 & 30.06
<i>Polymixis xanthomista statices</i> (Gregs.)	Black-banded	Na, 24.08 - 24.09 (20)
<i>Stilbia anomala</i> (Haw.)	Anomalous	3.09 - 27.09 (13)
<i>Pyrrhia umbra</i> (Hufn.)	Bordered Sallow	8th CR, 2.09. Late record
<i>Hadena confusa</i> (Hufn.)	Marbled Coronet	15.04 (2) :30.05 - 30.06 (10)

Penybryn (O. S. grid reference SN 180430)

Roland Gill has several acres, comprising scrub woodland, wetland and unimproved grassland, which is close to the Teifi Marshes SSSI. He joined the group later in the season but still recorded 80 species, including the following:

<i>Diurnia lipsiella</i> ([D. & S.])		1st CR, 10.11
<i>Acleris ferrugana</i> ([D. & S.])		2/4th CR, 9.11;16.11;19.11
<i>Acleris cristana</i> ([D. & S.])		1st CR, 15.10
<i>Watsonalla cultraria</i> (Fabr.)	Barred Hook-tip	5th CR, 17.09
<i>Lithophane leautieri hesperica</i> (Boisd.)	Blair's Shoulder Knot	19.10; 20.10;1.11
<i>Dryobotodes eremita</i> (Fabr.)	Brindled Green	6/13th CR, 15.09 -15.10 (13)
<i>Peridroma saucia</i> (Hb.)	Pearly Underwing	19.11
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> (Hb.)	Scarce Bordered Straw	15.09

Maes yr Haf (O. S. grid reference SN 057389)

Tony Lewis' property, at the edge of a coastal village, has a quarter acre garden which lies against extensive castle grounds with maritime heathland beyond. During 2003 he recorded 300 species, including the following:

<i>Tinea trinotella</i> (Thunberg)		1st CR, 26.05
<i>Phyllonorycter geniculella</i> (Rag.)		3rd CR, 12.09
<i>Carcina quercana</i> (Fabr.)		4/5th CR, 27.07;6.08
<i>Agonopterix arenella</i> ([D. & S.])		4/5th CR, 1.10;20.10
<i>Syndemis musculana musculana</i> (Hb.)		31.05
<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i> (L.)		3rd CR, 4.08
<i>Acleris comariana</i> (L. & Z.)		8th CR, 9.11
<i>Acleris hyemana</i> (Haw.)		2nd CR, 12.11
<i>Acleris literana</i> (L.)		2nd CR, 3.04
<i>Dichrorampha petiverella</i> (L.)		29.07(3);6.08;18.08
<i>Pyla fusca</i> (Haw.)		2nd CR, 6.08
<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i> (Scop.)	Dingy Shell	5th CR, 4.06
<i>Eilema caniola</i> (Hb.)	Hoary Footman	Nb, 6.08
<i>Lithophane leautieri hesperica</i> (Boisd.)	Blair's Shoulder Knot	5.10 - 19.11 (5)
<i>Stilbia anomala</i> (Haw.)	Anomalous	3.09
<i>Pseudoips prasinana britannica</i> (L.)	Green Silver-lines	7th CR, 9.07

Bryn Siriol (O. S. grid reference SM 942367)

Mel Ouseley's house sits in two acres in a narrow rural valley surrounded by deciduous woodland and damp unimproved grassland. With limited trapping opportunities he recorded 136 species during 2003, including:

<i>Blastobasis decolorella</i> (Woll.)		1st CR, 17.09
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i> (Haw.)	Cloaked Carpet	Nb, 2.07;15.07;5.08
<i>Cybosia mesomella</i> (L.)	Four-dotted Footman	24.06
<i>Xestia agathina</i> (Dup.)	Heath Rustic	16.09

We are particularly grateful to our County Recorder, Ron Elliott, for his help and advice and for invariably joining the NPMG outings. He has built up a comprehensive collection of records dating from 1875 and it is on the basis of these that we highlight some of the above species. Ron would particularly welcome any records, historical, old and new which anyone can provide. Our thanks also to David Slade for identifying some difficult micros. Finally, any lepidopterist visiting Pembrokeshire is more than welcome to join one of our regular field trips.— TONY LEWIS, Maes yr Haf, Feidr Castell, Newport, Pembrokeshire SA42 0PJ.